

State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

**State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509
Hartford, CT 06106
860-240-8555**

March 22, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Rep. Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Glenn A. Cassis and I am the Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC). The mission of the Commission is to promote and improve the economic, educational, health, safety and political well-being of the African-American community in Connecticut. The AAAC is non-partisan and provides comment on legislation to the General Assembly. I wish to submit testimony in support of S.B 1143 – An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information.

Since the passage of P.A. 12-74 - An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information in June of 2012, the African-American Affairs Commission has been an active member of the Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board. In addition the AAAC has been very involved with the Public Awareness and Data Methodology and Analysis Working Groups. When the Training Work Group meets, the AAAC will be represented. The AAAC has hosted and organized public awareness forums around the state to inform the public and law enforcement of the statute and to receive feedback from the public on ways to address issues with the statute.

The Commission supports the amendments recommended in S.B. 1143. During the past months it came to the Advisory Board's attention that the definition of the "department with authority to conduct a traffic stop" was not comprehensive. We found that certain departments were inadvertently missing. Clarifying the definition of a police officer will reduce ambiguity.

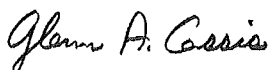
Our Mission

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut

In section b (1), we found that there may be extenuated circumstances or emergencies where an officer may not be able record a traffic stop. The Commission views this as a measure to help discourage unreasonable stops because law enforcement would have to account for all other traffic stops. Adding date, time and location to the form are necessary to assure that the data will be reliable and accurately represented when it is benchmarked with demographic data during analyzed.

The AAAC believes that the work of the Advisory Board has been transparent. These amendments will continue that effort. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn A. Cassis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn A. Cassis
Executive Director